

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 HA-05
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6937
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BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E. O. 11652: GDS-1
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, US, UR, CSCE
SUBJECT: THE SOVIETS AND THE 32ND UNGA

SUMMARY: LIKE UNITED STATES, SOVIETS POSITIVELY EVALUATE
RESULTS OF 32ND SESSION. THEIR CONCLUSIONS, HOWEVER, ARE
NOT AS POSITIVE-SOUNDING AS THOSE VOICED BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG
ON DECEMBER 21, AND PROCEED FROM TOTALLY DIFFERENT APPRAISAL
OF WHAT 32ND UNGA WAS ALL ABOUT. END SUMMARY.

1. DEFINITIVE SOVIET POSITION ON 32ND UNGA WAS ENUNCIATED
IN DECEMBER 22 PRAVDA ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY DEPUTY HEAD OF
SOVIET UNGA DELEGATION AND CHIEF OF MFA'S INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT, V. L. ISRAELYAN. HE CHARACTERIZED
UNGA AS PROCEEDING "IN COMPLETELY BUSINESSLIKE AND CON-
STRUCTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES," PREDICTABLY LABELLING PASSAGE
OF "DECLARATION ON DEEPENING AND STRENGTHENING THE
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RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION" AS 32ND UNGA'S
MOST SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT. ISRAELYAN ALSO
PRAISED PASSAGE OF CTB, CW AND SOUTH AFRICAN EMBARGO
RESOLUTIONS.

2. IN CONTRAST TO USSR'S ALLEGEDLY STELLAR RECORD,
ISRAELYAN NOTED THAT WESTERN POWERS, ESPECIALLY

US., HAD SUFFERED SETBACKS EXCEPT WHEN OPERATING
IN CONCERT WITH USSR. IN PARTICULAR, US FAILED TO:

- SECURE UNGA APPROVAL FOR SADAT TRIP;
- BLUNT ANTI-IMPERIALIST, ANTI-COLONIALIST
IMPETUS OF UN MEMBERS AGAINST RACIST REGIMES IN
NAMIBIA, RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA;
- PREVENT AN OVERWHELMING VOTE FOR NON-USE OF
FORCE RESOLUTION (ISRAELYAN NOTES IN PASSING THAT
RESOLUTION WAS DEFEATED, BUT POINTS UP THAT ONLY
US., UK, ALBANIA AND CHINA VOTED NO); AND
- ESTABLISH THE POST OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSIONER.

3. ISRAELYAN RESERVED SHARPEST JIBES AND BRICKBATS
FOR PEKING. ALLEGING THAT ASSEMBLY WAS FED UP
WITH "ALL THE ANTI-SOVIET CHATTER OF THE CHINESE
DELEGATION," ISRAELYAN CONCLUDED THAT DESPITE
DISSONANT NOTE STRUCK BY PEKING MAJOR RESULT OF
32ND SESSION WAS TO FORWARD THE "PROCESS OF IMPROVING
THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE AND DEEPENING DETENTE."

4. ISRAELYAN'S ATTACK ON CHINA WAS PART OF A SERIES
OF TASS RELEASES AND ARTICLES IN LATE DECEMBER
ATTACKING THE PRC. MOST NOTABLE IN THE UN CONTEXT
WAS A TASS REPORT OF DECEMBER 21 TITLED "CHINA'S
UNSEEMLY ROLE IN THE UNITED NATIONS." TASS ITEM
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ACCUSED CHINESE OF JOINING FORCES WITH INTERNATIONAL
IMPERIALISM, FAILING TO CONDEMN SOUTH AFRICAN RACISM,
SUPPORTING ISRAEL, AND (IN TYPICAL CASE OF
POT-CALLING-THE-KETTLE-BLACK) CONDUCTING A
"SLANDEROUS CAMPAIGN" AGAINST USSR.

5. COMMENT: SOVIETS APPEAR PARTICULARLY EXERCISED
ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER PROJECT. ISRAELYAN
CALLED IT "AN ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE WITH INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION." THIS OPINION WAS SECONDED IN A RECENT
CONVERSATION AT MFA WITH FIRST SECRETARY VLADIMIR
NIKOLAYEVICH FEDOROV, WHO WORKS FOR ISRAELYAN ON
UN AFFAIRS, AND WHO TOLD EMBOFF THAT SOVIETS DID NOT
UNDERSTAND US MOTIVATION FOR PUSHING SUCH A PROPOSAL.
HE WARNED THAT IT WAS FOLLY TO SET UP
COMMITTEE "ABOVE GOVERNMENT ORGANS" AND THEREBY "TURN
THE UN INTO A BUREAU OF COMPLAINTS." FEDOROV ADDED
THAT ISSUE HAD BEEN INTRODUCED BY COSTA RICA WHEN HE
WAS AT UN IN EARLY SEVENTIES AND HAD BEEN SOUNDLY
BEATEN. HE ACTED GENUINELY SURPRISED WHEN EMBOFF
COMMENTED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER ISSUE WAS
PERENNIAL ONE AND WOULD PROBABLY ARISE AGAIN IN FUTURE

UNGA'S.

6. 33RD UNGA? FEDOROV SHOWED NO INCLINATION TO DISCUSS
FUTURE SOVIET MOVES AT UN, PROBABLY BECAUSE NEXT
SESSION WILL SIMPLY BE MORE OF THE SAME: DEFENSIVE,
BUCK-PASSING POSTURE ON DC-LDC ISSUES; STEADFAST OPPO-
SITION TO MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT OUTSIDE GENEVA FRAMEWORK;
CONTINUING ATTEMPTS TO ENCOURAGE UN EFFORTS AGAINST S. AFRICAN
REGIMES; OPPOSITION TO HUMAN RIGHTS PROPOSALS; PROPAGANDISTIC
ATTITUDE TOWARD MOST ARMS CONTROL RESOLUTIONS;
CONTINUED COMPLAINTS ABOUT GALLOPING UN BUDGET; AND
CONTENTIOUS REPARTEE WITH CHINESE DELEGATES. MOST
LIKELY, SOVIETS WILL AGAIN ATTEMPT TO DOMINATE UNGA
TIME WITH USUAL BARRAGE OF RESOLUTIONS SUCH AS LAST
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SESSION'S DETENTE RESOLUTION SO WIDELY TOUTED BY
MOSCOW. THUS FAR THEY HAVE PROBABLY NOT CHOSEN THE
CENTERPIECE FOR THE COMING EFFORT. WE EXPECT THAT
THE CHOICE OF THAT ISSUE FOR THE NEXT UNGA WILL BE
HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY THE WORK OF THE UNSSOD THIS
SPRING AND THAT THE SOVIETS WILL TRY EVEN HARDER
THAN USUAL TO EXPLOIT THEIR PET DISARMAMENT ISSUES
NEXT FALL AS A DIRECT FOLLOW-UP TO THE UNSSOD.
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TAGS: PORG, US, UR, UNGA, CSCE
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